

From: Greg Walker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/28/01 2:38am
Subject: Microsoft Anti-Trust Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam -

I am writing to express my discontent regarding the anti-trust settlement with Microsoft. The proposal to donate computer hardware and software to schools would only increase the public's exposure to Microsoft products, and therefore, because Microsoft has retained its monopoly, would increase the number of Microsoft customers. Microsoft has already proven itself untrustworthy of managing the power of a monopoly without abusing it, and the school donations would certainly further its ability to abuse that power.

The most effective suggestion I have heard requires that Microsoft make public all of their present and future file formats, networking protocols, and application programming interfaces:

- Files created in Microsoft applications could be read and correctly modified by third-party programs, on the Windows operating system (OS) as well as other operating systems (such as Apple's Macintosh OS and the Linux OS).
- Other operating systems would be able to implement Microsoft's networking protocols, and thus easily interact with Microsoft-based computers on the internet and on local networks.
- As I understand, opening the Windows application programming interfaces is already part of the proposed agreement.

Without requiring these or similar measures, Microsoft would be able to continue many of its abusive practices, in the same or similar forms which caused this trial in the first place. Opening up Microsoft's protocols would require the company to compete on the merits of the design and functionality of their software, and not because they retain full and exclusive control and understanding of those protocols.

Any attempt to curb Microsoft's abusive practices must be made with a broad brush - making demands regarding a specific version of its operating system, or one of its programs in particular, will not end such abuse. Only changes which affect any software Microsoft could potentially create will have a lasting and meaningful effect.

Thank you for your time, and for considering my sentiments.

Sincerely,

Greg Walker